

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-41 are pending, in which claim 1 is currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Final Office Action mailed December 23, 2010 rejected claims 1-6 and 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; rejected claims 1-6, 8-33, 40, and 41 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Jiang et al.* (US 6,741,853) in view of *Hertling et al.* (US 2004/0205117); and rejected claims 34-39 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Jiang et al.* in view of *Hertling et al.*, and further in view of *Tummala et al.* (US 6,915,345). The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is hereby traversed. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed and are addressed in the Appeal Brief submitted concurrently herewith.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-17, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Final Office Action's assertions that these claims are indefinite. However, in an effort to reduce issues on appeal, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 for clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 and 8-17 are definite and are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-6 and 8-41, and as discussed above, Applicants have addressed these rejections in the Appeal Brief submitted concurrently herewith.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the

undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9952 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 504213 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG MORI & STEINER, P.C.

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Date

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